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ABSTRACT

The nature and use of names are the focus of a resarch report published in a Canadian journal. The article presents the results of a study of college and university sports teams' nicknames, including major categories of names (human, animal world, mythical, etc.), and frequency of names. The report concludes with a discussion of the social implications of name choices. (HTH)

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NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SPORTS NICKNAMES*

by

Edwin D. Lawson and Valerie A. Phillips**

Sports teams of colleges and universities represent an important focus of interest for many people. Nicknames associated with many teams evoke powerful emotions. Nicknames such as Eagles or Raiders seem to arouse greater reactions than those such as Lakers or Violets. Franks (1982) collected background information for nicknames of over 2100 institutions in the United States and Canada. He included universities, colleges, junior colleges, and specialized schools. The work of Franks is a good starting point for proceeding to formulate some general conclusions on names of sports teams. Of interest to onomasticians is the identification of any patterns or trends in the naming process as well as the actual content of the names. Some of the questions raised are:

a) What are the major content areas of nicknames?
b) What is the range of nicknames within a major classification?
c) What are the most common or frequent nicknames? What proportion of names show hostility or aggression?
d) What are some unusual nicknames?

The purpose of this investigation is to answer these and other questions about college and university nicknames.

Method

Each of the institutions described by Franks was listed with basic information. In many cases, but not all, there was a separate entry for the name of a women's team. In the absence of information to the contrary, the school was assumed to be coeducational and to have the same name for both the men's and women's teams. This total is 2125.

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* Presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, Guelph, Ontario, June 11, 1984. A revision of this paper was also presented at the annual meeting of the American Name Society, Washington, December 27, 1984.

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There were four schools that were clearly male only, bringing the combined total to 2129. All nicknames were then put into major categories. This took some amount of trial-and-error work since there really was no advance knowledge of what the categories and subcategories would be. The two largest groups turned out to be Human and Animal World. These two groups had to be subdivided in turn. Other classifications are: Mythical/Legendary (also including Supernatural and Imaginary), Natural Phenomena, Weapons/Ammunition, Institutional Name, Created Names, Colors, Inanimate Objects, and Miscellaneous.

Results

The first step was to set up and tabulate the major categories and, where appropriate, subcategories. Some names such as Moles (Nazareth College, so named because their campus buildings were connected by underground tunnels), and Brewers (Vassar College, named after the occupation of the founder) seemed to be able to fit more than one category. Deisions on the best appropriate classification were made on the basis of information in Franks and our own interpretation. Table 1 summarizes the major classifications and indicates that the bulk of the names (87.22%) falls into the Human and Animal categories with smaller frequencies in the remaining categories.

Table 2 is more detailed. It goes on to show each team name in its appropriate category and subcategory. The broad grouping Indian under Ethnic/Nationality is the largest group of all. This includes Indians per se with a frequency of 32 plus other Indian names such as Big Indians, Braves, Chiefs, Maroon Chiefs, Chieftains, Redmen, Redskins, Savages, Tribe, and Warriors, raising the total to 177. If we further add the names of specific tribes such as Apaches, Mohawks, and Hurons, the total rises to 134.

The most common ethnic group without variations is Vikings (42). Inclusion of Norsemen and Golden Norsemen to this group would bring the total to 51. The ethnic group with the most variations is Scots. This includes Scots, Scotties, Fighting Scots, Clansmen, Gaels, Golden Gaels, Highlanders, and Tartans.

Among names from Chivalry, there are 34 Knights plus variations; from the Military, 5 Colonels and 8 Generals; from Political, Ambassadors and Presidents; from Religious, Battling Bishops, Hustling Quakers, and Fighting Parsons; in the Historic group there are 36 Pioneers and 12 Rebels.

The second major classification, Animal World, is the largest. The largest subcategory, Mammals (630), represents almost 30% of the entire sample. Various breeds of dog are represented as well as types of bear, wolf, horse, sheep, and cattle, but the most popular mammals are lions, tigers, and other felines. There are 62 Tigers, plus Blue Tigers, Fighting Tigers, Golden Tigers, Maroon Tigers, and Bengals bringing the total number of Tigers to 70.

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Major Categories of School Nicknames

			No.	%
I.	Human		905	42.50%
	A. Ethnic/Nationality	303		
	B. Chivalry	131		
	C. Military/Naval/Maritime	50		
	D. Political	20		
	E. Religious	50		
	F. Historic	128		
	G. Cattle/Agriculture/Forestry	48		
	H. Occupations/Miscellaneous	42		
	I. Location	47		
	J. Anti-Social	78		
	K. Not Elsewhere Included	8		
II.	Animal World		952	44.72%
	A. Mammals	630		
	B. Birds	254		
	C. Reptiles	20		
	D. Fish	5		
	E. Insects	43		
III.	Mythical/Legendary/Supernatural/Imaginary		108	5.10%
	A. Birds	13		
	B. Gods, Goddesses	29		
	C. Monsters	23		
	D. Heroes	2		
	E. Spirits	2		
	F. Aggressive/Anti-Social/Supernatural	37		
	G. Mythical/Legendary	2		
IV.	Natural Events/Phenomena		45	2.11%
	A. Celestial	14		
	B. Terrestial	10		
	C. Weather/Atmosphere	21		
V.	Weapons/Ammunition		13	.61%
	A. Weapons	7		
	B. Ammunition	6		
VI.	From Institutional Name		44	2.07%
VII.	Created Names		16	.75%
VIII.	Colors		20	.94%
IX.	Inanimate Objects		8	.38%
X.	Miscellaneous		18	.95%
Totals			2129	100.03%

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TABLE 2

All Institutional Nicknames by Category

		Sub-total	Total
I.	Human		905
	A. Ethnic/nationality:		303
	1. American Indian: All categories:	134	
	a. General names: (117) Big Indians, Braves 12, Chiefs, 13, Maroon Chiefs, Chieftains 2, Indians 32, Redmen 10, Redskins 2, Savages, Tribe, Warriors 42.		
	b. Specific tribes: (17) Apaches 4, Beothuks, Chippewas, Choctaws, Fighting Illini, Mohawks, Mound Builders, Pequots, Seminoles, Utes, Fighting Sioux, Blackhawks*, Tetons, Hurons.		
	2. Americans, General, Regional: Americans, Kansans, Ragin' Cajuns, Buckeyes, Fighting Hoosiers, Tar Heels, Texans 2.	8	
	3. Other ethnic groups: Arabs, Aztecs 2, Britons, Celtics, Cossacks, Danes, Dutchmen 2, Flying Dutchmen 4, Norsemen 6, Golden Norsemen, Samurai, Scots 5, Fighting Scots 7, Clansmen 3, Gaels 2, Golden Gaels, Highlanders 11, Scotties, Tartans 2, Swedes, Fighting Christians, Fighting Irish.	56	
	4. Historic ethnic groups: Gothics, Spartans 27, Trojans 32, Vandals, Vikings 42, Tartars 2.	105	
	B. Chivalry: Barons 5, Red Barons, Cavaliers 14, Chargers 15, Dons 3, Dukes 3, Gentlemen, Kings 2, Kingsmen, Knights 34, Black Knights 2, Blue Knights 4, Golden Knights 3, Green Knights, Purple Knights 2, Red Knights 2, Scarlet Knights, Lancers 20, Lords, Squires, Paladins, Monarchs 7, Swordsmen, Yeomen, Royals 5, Bombers 2, Centurions 2, Sea Warriors.		131
	C. Military/Naval/Maritime: Anchormen, Archers, Cadets, Cannoneers 2, Captains, Clippermen, Colonels 5, Commodores 3, Conquerors, Defenders 2, Generals 8,		50

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	Sub-total	Total
Great Lakers, Helmsmen 2, Keelhaulers, Leathernecks, Majors, Mariners 4, Marines, Musketeers, Midshipmen, Sentinels, Skippers, Vanguards, Grenadiers, Soldiers, Bombers 2, Centurions 2, Tars, Sea Warriors.		
D. Political:		20
Ambassadors 2, Diplomats, Governors 2, Judges, Presidents, Senators 5, Statesmen 8.		
E. Religious:		50
Battling Bishops 2, Deacons 2, Demon Deacons, Missionaries, Monks, Mystics, Preachers, 3, Friars, Quakers 3, Hustling Quakers, Little Quakers 2, Saints 26, Fighting Saints 2, Maccabbees, Prophets, Samsons, Parsons, Fighting Parsons.		
F. Historic:		128
1. North American:	101	
Axemen, Blazers 3, Claimjumpers, Colonials 8, Confederates, Continentals, Explorers, Forty Niners, Minutemen 4, Patriots 12, Patriotes, Pilgrims, Pioneers 36, Plainsmen 3, Rebels 12, Scouts, Seventy-Sixers, Trail-blazers 2, Vols, Volunteers 2, Voyagers, Voyageurs, Sooners, Panmen, Sixty Sevens, Jayhawks**, Conquistadors, Frontiersmen.		
2. Non-North American:	27	
Tribunes, Gladiators, Crusaders 25.		
G. Cattle/Agriculture/Forestry:		48
Cowboys 7, Drovers, Gauchos 3, Muleriders, Roughriders 2, Vaqueros 3, Wranglers 2, Broncbusters; Threshers, Haymakers, Huskers, Shockers, Cornhuskers, Harvesters; Lumber-jacks 7, Loggers 2, Timbermen, Foresters 2, Chokers, Rangers 9.		
H. Occupations/Miscellaneous:		42
Boilermakers, Brewers, Carriers, Collegians 2, Designers, Engineers 5, Fighting Engineers, Executives, Miners 3, Hard Rockers, Ore Diggers 2, Hatters, Magicians, Matadors 4, Mounties 6, Oilers 2, Pilots 2, Pipers, Poets, Profs, Toreros, Traders, Trappers, Bookkeepers.		
I. Location:		47
Cobbers, Hilltoppers 3, Islanders, Lakers 15, Lakesiders, Mountaineers 13, Ramparts, Ridgerunners, Rivermen, Shoremen, Toppers, Westerners, Ironmen, Northmen 3, Soo Lakers, Nor'Westers, Seasiders.		
		6

	Sub-total	Total
J. Anti-social:		78
Buccaneers 10, Bucs 2, Corsairs 3, Marauders 8, Pirates 18, Privateers 2, Raiders 19, Blue Raiders 2, Red Raiders 5, Purple Raiders, Scarlet Raiders, Renegades 2, Rustlers 3, Reivers, Sea Kings.		
K. Not elsewhere included:		8
Battlers, Blueboys, Nomads, Ramblers, Pats, Valiants, Victors, Wonderboys.		
II. Animal World		952
A. Mammals:		630
1. Canines:	155	
a. Bears: (48) Bears 23, Bear Clubs, Fighting Bears, Black Bears, Golden Bears 6, Polar Bears 2, Bruins 8, Grizzlies 4, Kodiaks, Nanooks (Eskimo for Polar Bear).		
b. Dogs: (85) Bloodhounds, Boxers, Bulldogs 47, Pointers 2, Salukis, Saluqis, Setters, Terriers 5, Great Danes, Greyhounds 8, Huskies 15, Retrievers, Hounds.		
c. Foxes: (2) Red Foxes, Vixens.		
d. Wolves: (20) Wolves 6, Amarauks (Eskimo for Timber Wolf), Nordic Wolves, Wolf Pack, Wolfpack, Lobos 3, Timberwolves 2, Coyotes 5.		
2. Felines:	303	
a. Lions: (47) Lions 38, Golden Lions 3, Little Lions 2, Nittany Lions, Clubs 2, Kubs.		
b. Tigers: (70) Tigers 62, Blue Tigers, Fighting Tigers 2, Golden Tigers, Maroon Tigers, Bengals 3.		
c. Other Felines: (186) Bobcats 17, Lynx, Wildcats 31, Catamounts 3, Mountain Cats, Mountain Lions 2, Panthers 44, Pumas, Cougars 58, Kougars, Cheetahs, Jaguars 8, Leopards 4, Ocelots, Cats, Kats, Tomcats, Bearcats 8, Bearkats 2.		
3. Ruminants:	26	
Antelopes 4, Buffaloes 4, Bisons 11, Thundering Herd, Bucks 2, Caribous, Stags 3.		

	Sub-total	Total
4. Domestic Cattle/Sheep/Hogs: Brahmans, Bulls, Golden Brahmans, Golden Bulls, Mavericks 7, Longhorns 2, Toros, Steers, Rams 28, Golden Rams 2, Rambling Rams, Razorbacks.	47	
5. Horses: Broncos 10, Bronchos, Broncs 2, Golden Stallions, Mules 2, White Mules Mustangs 12, Golden Mustangs, Pacers**, Palominos, Thoroughbreds, Trotters, Colts 6, Ponies, Burros.	42	
6. Rodents: Badgers 5, Beavers 17, Gophers, Golden Gophers, Jackrabbits, Moles, Squirrels.	27	
7. Other mammals: Wombats, Anteaters, Armadillos, Camels 2, Dolphins 7, Jumbos, Gorillas, Zips (school mascot is kangaroo), Kangaroos, Fighting Kangaroos, Koalas, Raccoons, Javelinas, Seals 2, Tuskers, Wolverines 7.	30	
B. Birds:		254
1. Eagles: Eagles 50, Bald Eagles, Blue Eagles, Golden Eagles 14, Red Eagles, Screaming Eagles 2, Soaring Eagles, Mighty Eagles, Purple Eagles.	72	
2. Falcons: Falcons 29, Mighty Falcons.	30	
3. Hawk/Hawk Associated: Hawks 27, Blue Hawks 2, Golden Hawks 2, Scarlet Hawks, Seahawks 5, Hawkeyes, Jayhawks ** 2, Warhawks ** 2, Duhawks, Kohawks.	44	
4. Other birds: Bantams 2, Fighting Blue Hens, Gamecocks, Fighting Gamecocks, Chukars, Blackbirds, Blue Jays 6, BlueJays5, Cardinals 21, Condors 3, Owls 18, Fighting Owls, Ookpiks (Arctic Owls), Gobblers, Great Auks, Sea Gulls, Seagulls 2, Soaring Gulls, Larks, Ospreys 2, Pelicans, Penguins 3, Ravens 7, Red Ravens, Redbirds, Sage Hens, Roadrunners 18, Stormy Petrels, Peacocks 2.	108	
C. Reptiles: Dinosaurs, Gators 6, Gila Monsters, Horned Frogs, Cobras 4, Rattlers 3, Pythons, Moccasins 2, Terrapins.		20
D. Fish: Barracudas, Marlins, Muskies, Sailfish, Skipjacks.		5
		8

		Sub-total	Total
E.	Insects: Bees, Fighting Bees, Superbees, Bollweevils, Weevils, Crickets, Scorpions, Skeeters, Spiders, Wasps, Yellowjackets 18, Hornets 15.	40	
III.	Mythical/Legendary/Supernatural/Imaginary		108
A.	Birds: Firebirds, Phoenix 2, Thunderbirds 10.	13	
B.	Gods, Goddesses: Athenas, Nikes, Titans 16, Tritons 5, Vulcans 3, Olympians 2, Angels.	29	
C.	Monsters: Centaurs 5, Dragons 6, Giants 2, Green Giants, Griffins 2, Golden Griffins, Griffons, Gryphons, Sasquatch, Trolls, Terrors, Seahorses.	23	
D.	Heroes: Argonauts 2.	2	
E.	Spirits: Spirits, Sprites.	2	
F.	Aggressive/Anti-Social/Supernatural: Demons 3, Blue Demons, Red Demons, Blue Devils 14, Delta Devils, Jersey Devils, Red Devils 7, Sun Devils, Diablos, Blue Dragons, Red Dragons 3, Gray Ghosts, Phantoms, Seawolves.	37	
G.	Mythical/Legendary - Not Elsewhere Included: Iron Horse Express, Flying Horsemen.	2	
IV.	Natural Events/Phenomena		45
A.	Celestial: Comets 9, Komets, Stars 2, Suns 2.	14	
B.	Terrestial: Artichokes, Chaparrals 4, Maple Leafs, Oaks, Mighty Oaks, Sycamores, Violets.	10	
C.	Weather/Atmosphere: Waves, Green Wave 2, Cyclones 2, Flames 3, Hurricanes 4,Golden Hurricane, Rainbows, Tornadoes 4, Golden Tornadoes, Trade Winds, Blue Tide.	21	

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		Sub-total	Total
V.	Weapons/Ammunition		13
	A. Weapons: Rifles, Sabers, Sabres 2, Silverswords, Tomahawks 2.	7	
	B. Ammunition: Arrows, Bullets, Rockets 4.	6	
VI.	From Institutional Name		44
	Bardians, Aggies 9, Augies, Barat Cudas, Bonnies, Capers, Ephmen, Fighting Muskies, Fords, Gusties, Ichabods, Jaspers, Jimmies, Johnnies, Katies, Little Giants** 2, Lord Jeffs, Lutes, Mighty Macs, SAM, Railsplitters, Siwash, Student Princes, T-Hawks, Techmen, Tommies 2, Weasmen, X-Men, Warhawks**, Twins, Allegheny, Forty Niners (year founded), Saxons (Alfred U), Metros.		
VII.	Created Names		14
	Atomics, Blue Streaks, Express, Flyers 3, Golden Flyers, Golden Flashes, Red Flash, Hoyas, Pacers** 4, Prairie Stars, Reddies.		
VIII.	Colors		20
	Blues 2, Big Blue, Big Blues, Big Red 2, Crimson, Crimson Tide, Maroons 2, Big Green, Mean Green, Blugolds, Gee-Gees (garnet & grey), Orangemen, Purple Aces, Vert et Or, Rouge et Or, Blue Hose, Varsity Blues.		
IX.	Inanimate Objects		8
	Beacons, Bridges, Clippers 5, Spurs.		

10

		Sub-total	Total
X.	Miscellaneous: Not Elsewhere Included		18
	Billikens, The City, Flying Fleet, Free Spirit, Gaiters, Jets, Golden Jets, Jersey Blues, Keydets, Lights, Lyons, Nationals, Pacers**, Stingers, Sunblazers, Sets, Gold Rush, T-Liners.		

Note: * Strictly speaking Blackhawks are not an Indian tribe but rather are named after Chief Blackhawk, an Indian leader.

** Some names may be found in more than one category. Thus, a Warhawk could be named after a political leader or as a type of hawk. In these situations, a decision as to category was made on the basis of the information furnished by Franks.[1]

In the Bird group, there are 50 Eagles plus Bald Eagles, Blue Eagles, Golden Eagles, Red Eagles, Screaming Eagles, Soaring Eagles, Mighty Eagles, and Purple Eagles. The total of all Eagles is 72. This high number is probably influenced by the Eagle being one of the symbols of the United States. Some names such as Eagles, Tigers, Knights, and Bulldogs, were chosen by a number of schools. Table 3 shows a listing of the most popular names.

Other names are more unique such as Hoyas, The City, Cookpiks, and Zips and were chosen only by a single institution. Many of the names are rather unusual. Often there is a campus story or legend connected with the adoption of the name. A short list of unusual names is shown in Table 4 but there are many more. The reader is invited to examine Table 2 for other unusual names or trends.

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1 Franks, Ray, What's in a nickname? Exploring the jungle of college athletic mascots. Amarillo, TX, Ray Franks Publishing Ranch, 1982.

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TABLE 3

Most Frequent Nicknames

	Number	With Variations		Number	With Variations
1. Eagles	50	72	6. Panthers	44	
2. Tigers	62	70	7. Lions	38	47
3. Cougars	58	59	8. Vikings	42	
4. Knights	34	49	9. Warriors	42	

TABLE 4

Some Unusual Names

Anteaters	University of California, Irvine
Arabs	Imperial Valley College, California
Armadillos	Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas
Artichokes	Scottsdale Community College, Arizona
Burros	Queensborough Community College, New York
Camels	Campbell University, North Carolina Connecticut College
Chokers	Grays Harbor College, Washington
Demon Deacons	Wake Forest University, North Carolina
Dinosaurs	University of Calgary, Alberta
Hoyas	Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Moles	Nazareth College, Michigan
Zips	Akron University, Ohio

Table 5 deals with the distribution of names. It indicates the frequency and percentage of names from most common to unique. Over half (54.14%) of the names were chosen by 10 or more colleges. At the other end of the distribution we find that over a sixth (18.71%) of the names were unique, chosen by a single school. An additional 7.42% were used by two schools.

TABLE 5

Distribution of Nicknames According to Frequency

Number of Occurrences	Number of Names	Occurrences X Names	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
60-	1	62	2.90%	2.90%
50-59	2	108	5.07%	7.97%
40-49	4	175	8.22%	16.19%
30-39	6	203	9.53%	25.72%
20-29	9	226	10.61%	36.34%
10-19	27	379	17.80%	54.14%
9	3	27	1.27%	55.41%
8	8	64	3.01%	58.42%
7	9	63	3.00%	61.42%
6	8	48	2.25%	63.67%
5	15	75	3.52%	67.19%
4	16	64	3.01%	70.20%
3	29	87	4.10%	74.30%
2	79	158	7.42%	81.72%
1	390	390	18.31%	100.03%

Note: Thus, there was one name (Tigers) that occurred 60 or more times (actually, 62 times); two names, Cougars (58) and Eagles (50), were in the 50-59 group. 390 names occurred only once.

A final result concerns sex differences on team names. As mentioned earlier, most colleges and universities in the Franks sample are coeducational or not designated as being for one sex. In evaluating the team names, most of the orientation is either masculine or neutral. There are, however, three exceptions which have feminine gender nicknames. They are Fighting Blue Hens of the University of Delaware (according to Franks, the name is supposed to go back to the Revolutionary days when Delaware soldiers engaged in cockfighting with blue hens), the Sage Hens of Pomona-Pitzer, and the Vixens of Sweet Briar (which has a history as a women's college). The names for teams designated as women's present a somewhat mixed pattern. Most institutions (over 83%) use the same team designation for both the men and the women. The dilemma is that some of the men's teams have names such as Bulls, Lions, and Rams, names which are ordinarily associated with the male gender. Some schools have chosen to prefix the name of the women's team with

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Lady. Thus, we have Lady Bulls, Lady Lions, and Lady Rams, which seem somewhat of a contradiction. Other schools have added the suffix -ette, as Lancerettes, Lionettes, and Rammettes. Other patterns use a feminine form of a name such as Queens for Kings, Duchesses for Dukes, or Squaws for Braves. Table 6 shows all of the patterns with examples.

TABLE 6 **Nickname Patterns for Women's Teams with Examples**

Same nickname as men's team		1771	83.18%
Different name than men's team		354	16.63%
"Lady" preceding team name	192		
Lady Scots, Edinboro State C.			
Lady Rams, Shepherd C.			
"ette" as suffix to name	53		
Pantherettes, Claflin C.			
Rammettes, Albany State C.			
"Women" as suffix or part of name	17		
Colonial Women, George Washington U.			
Dutchwomen, Union C. NY			
"Girls" as part of name	6		
Golden Girls, Elon C.			
Cow Girls, McNeese State U.			
New Mexico Highlands U.			
Conners State C.			
Oklahoma State U.			
U. of Wyoming			
"Jills" as part of name	4		
Lumberjills, Westmoreland County CC.			
Northern Arizona U.			
Northland C.			
Skipjills, Chesapeake C.			
"Queens" as part of name	4		
Queens, Red Deer C.			
Feminine form of name	14		
Gauchas, Saddleback CC.			
Duchesses, Duquesne U.			
James Madison U.			
Squaws, Montclair State C.			
Miscellaneous	62		

Men's Team	Women's Team	Institution
Haymakers	Fillies	Phillips U.
Ore Diggers	Miners	Colorado Mines
Leathernecks	Westerwinds	Western Illinois U.
Trojans	Helenas	Southern Alberta Inst.
Bears	Teddy Bears	Mercer U.
SAM	Lynxcats	Southwestern at Memphis
Panthers	Pink Panthers	Albany C. of Pharmacy

Male school, no women's team	4	.18%
Totals	2129	99.99%

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Discussion

Surveying the whole listing of names, one is struck by the sheer volume of names that are really aggressive and anti-social. Buccaneers, Pirates, Claimjumpers, Marauders, and Pirates are examples in the Human group; Bantams, Barracudas, Cobras, Fighting Bees in the Animal group. It would appear that many of the human and most of the animal models are chosen for their ferocity. Among the remaining groups, many of those in the Mythical/Legendary classification suggest aggression with such names as Dragons, Devils, and Terrors; some in the Weather/Atmosphere category of Natural Events/Cyclones such as Hurricanes, and Tornadoes; and those in the Weapons/Ammunition group such as Tomahawks, Arrows, and Bullets. . Why?

Before going to answer that question, we should point out that there are several teams that do project a tranquil image. Names such as Poets, Profs, Lakers, Beacons, Rainbows, Maple Leafs, Oaks, Sycamores, and Violets sound peaceful but there are probably not many more than 25 like these. It is also true that there may be a hundred or so names like Traders, Executives, Koalas, Soaring Gulls, Atomics, and Blues that are relatively neutral. However, the bulk of the 2129 names remains relatively aggressive and hostile.

N. Scott Vance has recently described the work of Charles Prebish of Pennsylvania State University on sport in America.[2] Prebish's view is that sport is a religion and shows a number of parallels with traditional organized religion. This is confirmed when words usually employed to describe religion are used to describe sports, words such as "sacred, faith, ritual, ultimate, dedicated, sacrifice, commitment, and spirit." Our view agrees that sports do have many of the aspects of religion but we can go on to add some psychological aspects.

One way of looking at religion is to consider that it is a progression through several stages: animism, gods, myths, legends, heroes, and religious leaders. As we evaluate team names, we can see vestiges of this developmental pattern. When a school assumes a name, there is a process of identification taking place. In most cases this is that type of identification known as introjection in which the individual tries to incorporate the characteristics of another into the self. A child wearing Daddy's hat would be an example.

In Totem and Taboo, Freud argued that primitive man believed in animism (that spirits residing in animals or in nature could in-

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2 Vance, N. Scott, "Sport is a religion in America, controversial professor argues," Chronicle of Higher Education, 1984, May 16, p. 25-27.

fluence human behavior and destiny).[3] Animism led to totemism, the belief that primitive man was descended from a specific animal (pp. 101-102), incorporated its characteristics, and could expect to receive its protection. Freud went on to point out (p. 104) that at the Capitol in Rome there was a she-wolf in her cage and in Bern there were bears in their den, clearly examples of totem animals for the respective cities. In a sense, such names as Leo (coming from Lion) and Wolf are modern relics of a similar naming tradition. A second aspect of animal names for our more primitive ancestors is that besides strenghtening the self-image of the bearer, using totem names would cause more fear in the enemy.

The naming process for a sports teams appears to follow a pattern similar to that of primitive man. The team attempts to incorporate the qualities of the model, whether human such as Indians, Crusaders, or Knights, or animal such as Eagles or Tigers, or of some other form such as Giants, Comets, or Bullets. This process of identification has the function of bolstering the team's own morale (and that of its partisans) and perhaps intimidating its opponents. Finally, we should again point out that Indian names of all kinds are the largest single grouping (134). Are our athletic teams trying in a somewhat romantic way to incorporate the warlike qualities attributed to native Americans in a sort of primitive animism? It certainly seems so.

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Onomastica Canadiana needs short notes to fill spaces like this.

Regular articles almost always end short of the bottom of their last page, leaving a space that can be used for publishing short notes, extending from a few lines to three-quarters of a page in length.

The notes may be about a variety of subjects. For example, the etymology of one's own name, the explanation of an unusual foreign name or suffix, or any other name-related subject which lacks the necessary details for a full length article.

The notes should be scholarly in approach, so that each contribution adds to the science of onomastics. General remarks about names should be submitted for publication in the Name Gleaner.

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3 Freud, Sigmund, Totem and taboo (James Strachey, trans.). New York, Norton, 1952. (Original work published 1913).

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